

Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland

By Deborah Hautzg

Classic story of Alice in Wonderland but told in a Reader format. The Story remains the same of a young girl falling down the rabbit hole and meeting all kinds of extraordinary creatures. This book is recommended for ages 4- 8 in both public and school libraries. There is nothing extraordinary about this book. It is just another classic that has been redone.

Shelia Cermak

Little Hoot By Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Jen Cordce

This is the story of a little owl who doesn't like to stay up late, playing and practicing his watching, he would rather go to bed early like his friends. This book has great illustrations in the story. This book is recommended for ages 4- 8 in any library. The story and the kid friendly pictures and fun characters appeal to all readers. The unexpected plot of the story makes it a great fun read.

Shelia Cermak

500 Cats

By Jill Rappaport with Lynea Luttanzio

The book is a picture book about the cat sanctuary and adoption center known as the "Cat House on the Kings" in California. The book tells a very short story about a kitten who was rescued and brought to live with five hundred cats. The story shows the kitten enjoying life at the Cat house until it is adopted. This story is recommended for ages 4- 8 in a public library. Funds from the purchase of the book benefit the Cat Sanctuary in California. This is a fast fun book, with great pictures of cats and kittens.

Shelia Cermak

Let's play in the Snow

By Sam McBratney

This is the story of the Nutbrown Hares playing "I spy" as they play in the snow. The story links the game the hares play to the illustrations. This book would be a good addition for any library and is recommended for ages 4- 8. This is another book in the guess how much I love you series; a fun board book, with lessons to learn along the way.

Shelia Cermak

As Easy as Falling off the Face of the Earth

By Lynne Rae Perkins

Ry goes on an adventure where he meets new people and various unfortunate mishaps on a quest to find his parents and his grandfather. This book is recommended for middle school and up. The book contains illustrations and comics from a dog's point of view. This book is definitely one of the better adventure novels for this age group. In the beginning it is very hard to get into the story, but if you stick with it, it will be well worth it.

Whitney Drahota

Painter and Ugly By Robert J. Blake

This is a story of canine friendship including a run with the Junior Iditarod Trail. Painter and Ugly are two inseparable sled dogs and do everything together from eating out of each other's bowls to having their sleeping quarters together. After a delightful summer together on an island by the Yukon River all the dogs are taken to the mainland where they are separated and taken to different homes. Painter and Ugly do not like the separation and continue to yip for each other. On the day of the Junior Iditarod in the back of each of Painter and Ugly minds is the thought that just maybe they will find each other so they keep checking the air for scent and keep calling out and listening for an answer. A wonderful conclusion to the story comes when Painter and Ugly are united again. This interesting story is accompanied by wonderful full page oil paintings and will delight any person who picks up the book and pages through it. The paintings are what first pulled my attention to the books. Written for Kindergarten and up the story can open up discussion on friendship, dog sled racing, Alaska country side and weather. This is a great volume for public and school libraries.

Pat Thompson
WSC

Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto

By Susan Goldman Rubin

Irena Sendler was a Polish social worker who helped save more than four hundred (when I researched this the number was 2500) children out of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. Irena was very careful to keep records of the name of each child and the new name that was given them so after the War children could be reunited with their loved one. The papers were kept in jars and buried under an apple tree in a friend's yard. This is an account of compassion and ingenuity in finding ways to smuggle children out of awful living conditions and give them a chance to live, because staying with parents was a certain death. Illustrations by Farnsworth help to make the biography story more interesting. An afterword and additional information about the story finish off the book. Written for 4th grade and up this account will help children understand some of the horror of World War II and the Nazi regime. A must purchase for public and school libraries.

Pat Thompson
WSC

Underpants on My Head

By Jessica Harper

I am from a small family. There are six of us kids and we are traveling to Denver to see Gram. I love going to Gram's. Then we're climbing Mt. Baldy. All goes as planned until it begins to snow on the mountain, really hard. My whiny older sister, Jenna falls down. Then Mon has us put underpants on our heads, it's crazy. This book is recommended for ages 2-4 in a public or school library. This is a delightful book.
Elaine Tobias

Princess of the Midnight Ball

By Jessica Day George

Princess of the Midnight Ball is a highly enjoyable embellishment upon the classic Brothers Grimm tale of The Twelve Dancing Princesses. The king's twelve daughters have been wearing out their dancing shoes almost every night. However, no one knows where they are going each night or how they are escaping their locked rooms. What is even more baffling is that the princesses seem to be dancing under duress, even when they are deathly sick. Desperate, the king offers to make anyone his heir if they can solve the mystery and help his daughters. However, every prince that comes fails to learn their secret and ends up dying mysterious deaths only days later. Now the kingdom is under threat due to cries of witchcraft. It will take a young soldier newly home from the war to help the princesses escape from the grasp of the King Under Stone and to prevent the fall of the kingdom. All it takes is an invisible cloak, a little bit of wool, and the love of a man and a princess. Recommended for middle and high school, this tale re-imagined tale brings and mixes the best of the original with new insightful storylines. This book was a true pleasure to read. Those interested in knitting may also find the author's references to this craft throughout the story and her knitting patterns related to story-line items at the end of the book intriguing.
Valerie Knight, WSC Library

The King's Arrow

By Michael Cadnum

During the year 1100AD, Eighteen-year-old Simon participates in a royal hunt. He accompanies the nobleman, Walter Tirel, and during the hunt King William II is accidentally shot, or is it murder? This work of fiction is based on facts from when King William II was fatally wounded by an arrow and the ensuing hunt and crisis that followed. This book is recommended for grades 6-8 and for any library collection. This is a little bit love story, part adventure, mystery, and 'who done it'. There is some magic intertwined throughout the story but it works well and it was fun to read. I think boys might like it a little more than girls.
Deb Daehnke

Princess of Glass

By Jessica Day George

Princess Poppy has been sent on a royal exchange program to Breton in hopes that possible connections and romances may unite countries to bring peace. While there, she discovers that one of her maids has been ensorcelled by a magic curse. Having once been under a curse herself, she is determined to find out where penniless Eleanora has been getting her magnificent ball gowns and glass slippers and why everyone in the kingdom except Poppy seems to be under her spell. Of course it doesn't help that Eleanora seems fixated on Prince Christian who at one time had seemed to be a promising friend for Poppy. This is no typical Cinderella take. Jessica Day George brings new life to an often overworked genre with unique twists and turns. Who would have ever thought that a "Cinderella" not getting her prince was a great thing? Well, here it is! Both middle and high school girls should enjoy this enchanting and adventurous romance. Included at the end are knitting instructions for items mentioned in the story.

Valerie Knight, WSC Library

The Explosionist

By Jenny Davidson

Sophie lives with her Great Aunt Tabitha in 1930s Scotland. Her best friend is Mikael, from Denmark, who occasionally lives with friends in Scotland. Sophie attends an all-girls boarding school and strange happenings begin to take place. Just as a favorite teacher wants to talk with her during school, there is a bombing outside; her Aunt Tabitha expects her to attend séances; a homeless veteran seems to be always watching her; the medium at a séance is murdered; and Sophie learns of frightening indoctrinations at a training facility for girls. All these events are intertwined in a murder mystery. This book is recommended for teenage readers and for any library collection. This is a murder mystery with many different twists and turns. The book is 450 pages long so the length might discourage some readers. But it's easy to follow with all kinds of twists occurring during the story. Teens should enjoy reading about their peers trying to unravel events to solve the murder mystery. It was a fun read.

Deb Daehnke

Magic Puppy

By Sue Bentley

Lily really wants a pony, but her parents say "no". She helps out every weekend at a riding school nearby. A magic puppy finds her and helps her numerous times. The puppy is actually a wolf that is in hiding from an older more dangerous wolf. After a series of mini adventures Lily gets a pony. This book was kind of blah! It seemed as though the author concentrated on the puppy's magic and not getting the puppy back home. That only comes into focus on the last few pages.

Elaine Tobias